Railway Divisional Office at Sambalpur in Orissa ;

(b) the funds allocated for this Division so far ;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to establish the said Railway Division during the financial year 1990-91; and

(b) by when the new Divisional Office is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There was some delay in acquiring the requisite land. Thereafter, the work has been progressing satisfactorily, in phases, commensurate with the availability of funds.

(b) Upto 31-3-1990 an allotment of Rs. 158.65 lakhs has been made against rhe estimated cost of Rs. 1057.21 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Requisite basic infrastructure has been created and the Divisional Office with essential facilities is likely to start functioning by end of April, 1990.

Recognition of synonymous names of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka

*72. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received any request for recognising the synonymous names of the Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal received from the Government of Karntataka is being considered along with similar other proposals, recommendations, suggestions etc. in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes while keeping in view the critieria followed in the matter. Further, amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of provision made under Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

Implementation of Bachhawat Wage Board recommendations by newspaper establishments

*73. SHRI KAPIL VERMA : SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have collected information about the number of news paper establishments in the country which have implemented the Bachhawat wage Board recommendations for journalists and non-Journalists, and if so, the details thereof ;

(b) what action Government are taking to make the defaulting newspapers implement the recommendations ;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Governments and any feedback has been received in this respect; and

(d) what steps have been taken for monitoring the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The State Governments are the appropriate Authority for the enforcement of the recommendations made by the Wage Boards for Journalists and Non Journalists. Following the issue of the notification relating to the recommendations, State Government have been urged to set up suitable monitoring mechanism

for ensuring implementation of the recommendation. As per the information available, Tripartite Committees for the purpose have already been set up in six States. States have also been requested to keep the Central Government informed about the Status of implementation. So far two States have sent their report in this regard. States have been reminded to expedite their reports.

*74 [*Transferred to the 20th March*, 1990]

Discouragement of smoking in trains

*75. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accepted the principle of gradual discouragement of smoking in trains ; if so, what steps are being taken in this direction ;

(b) whether Government propose to use the internal TV Circuits on the Railway Stations to project videos on the harmful efforts of smoking ; and

(c) whether Government also propose to impose a ban on the sale of cigarettes on the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The existing policy is that no person is permitted to smoke in a railway compartment without the consent of his fellow passengers in the same compartment. Besides, smoking has been prohibited in suburban trains, and in the airconditioned area of AC Sleeper and AC Chair Cars. In Second Class, earmarking of a sleeper coach for non-smokers is being experimented on some trains.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no such proposal.

Revamping of the Public Distribution System

*76. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to revamp the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enlarge the list of items for sale through the fair price shops; and

(d) if so, what are the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The administration of the public Distribution System is primarily the respeonsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. They also have powers under the Essential Commodities Act and other similar legislations.

Efforts are made on a continual basis to strengthen and streamline the system. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time advising the regarding effective coordination among the agencies engaged in PDS, involvement of consumers' representatives in the vigil on its functioning, strict enforcement of the provisions of law, better coverage of population, introduction of mobile shops, etc. The Central Government also provides assistance to the concerned State Governments/ U.T. Administrations under selected schemes for remote and hilly areas.

(c) and (d) The States and Union Territories have been advised from time to time to include more items of mass consumption for sale through